

AMENDMENT
Serial No. 09/557,119

YOR920000023US1

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 23 and 25 – 40 remain in the application. Claims 1 – 20 and 32 – 40 have been allowed. Claims 21 – 23 stand rejected. Claims 24 – 31 are objected to but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 21 – 22 and 25 are amended herein. Claim 24 is canceled and rewritten as amended Claim 21. No new matter has been added.

Claims 21 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,928,133 to Halyak. Claims 24 – 31 are objected to but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 21 is amended to include the recitations of claim 24 and so, is former dependent claim 24 rewritten in independent form. Thus, the amendment to claim 21 obviates the need for any further discussion of Halyak and all claims are allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of amended claims 21 – 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and the objection to claims 25 – 31 is respectfully solicited.

The applicants thank the Examiner for efforts, both past and present, in examining the application. Believing the application to be in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to claims 25 – 31 and the rejection of claims 21 – 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allow the application to issue.

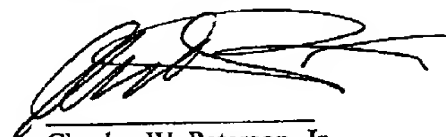
Should the Examiner believe anything further may be required, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below for a telephonic or personal interview to discuss any other changes.

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Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to
IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0510 and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted,



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December 8, 2003
(Date)

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